

**Jail Population Management Subcommittee**  
**of the**  
**Sanford “Sandy” Krasnoff Criminal Justice Council**

MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, July 17, 2017

1:30pm – 3:00pm

- 
- |      |  |                             |
|------|--|-----------------------------|
| I.   | Opening  | Commissioner Calvin Johnson |
| II.  | Welcome to Justice Systems Administrator                         | Director Gary Maynard       |
| III. | Community Advisory Group   | Erness Wright-Irvin         |
| IV.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance Measures | Sarah Schirmer              |

## **Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee Minutes**

**July 17, 2017**

On July 17, the Jail Population Management Subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Council convened at 1:39 pm in the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Homeland Security Conference Room in City Hall. The following persons were present/absent:

### **Jail Population Management Subcommittee**

#### **Present:**

Criminal Justice Commissioner Calvin Johnson –  
Subcommittee Chair  
Chief Defender Derwyn Bunton, Orleans Public  
Defenders  
Jonathan Wisbey, Chief Administrative Office  
Chris Bowman, District Attorney's Office  
Director Gary Maynard, Orleans Parish Sherriff's  
Office  
Virginia Ryan, Orleans Parish Sherriff's Office  
Nia Weeks, Community Representative

#### **Arrived Later:**

Councilmember Susan Guidry

#### **Absent:**

Judge Harry Cantrell, Criminal District Court  
Deputy City Attorney Charlene Larche-Mason  
Terrie Guerin, Clerk of Court's Office  
Deputy Chief Paul Noel, New Orleans Police  
Department  
District Administrator Steve Lassalle, Probation  
& Parole  
Judge Camille Buras, Criminal District Court  
Judge White, Criminal District Court

### **Office of Criminal Justice Coordination**

#### **Present:**

Sarah Schirmer  
Amanda Simpkins  
DuBois Winford

#### **I. Opening**

Commissioner Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:39 pm. Commissioner Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Director Maynard to introduce Virginia Ryan, the new Justice Systems Administrator.

#### **II. Welcome to Justice Systems Administrator**

Director Maynard briefly introduced Virginia Ryan. He noted that the Justice Systems Administrator position was advertised for some time, waiting for the right person. He believes the right person finally showed up. Director Maynard requested that Virginia Ryan talk about the experience she brings to the position.

Virginia Ryan introduced herself. She worked at Orleans Public Defenders for seven years. She was brought on when they were creating a client services division to deal with the non-legal parts of a case. She then worked with people in need of mental health treatment while in jail. Most recently she was the deputy supervisor of the OPD client services division. She's excited and honored to do this work.

Councilmember Guidry arrived at 1:42

Commissioner Johnson highlighted that this position is unique and will have a dramatic impact in terms of the jail and the population that comes through that facility.

### **III. Community Advisory Group**

Commissioner Johnson asked Erness Wright-Irvin, facilitator of the Community Advisory Group, to speak about the process of community engagement.

Erness Wright-Irvin introduced herself to the group. She was born in New Orleans. She spent 26 years working in large public hospitals, and that experience put her in so many bad meetings, where people zone out and don't come to a decision. She's now found a new career as a professional facilitator. She's done that for 14 years. A professional facilitator is not engaged in content, but they have expertise in how groups work together to attain a particular goal. This community advisory group is a way to grapple with issues and simultaneously inform the community and educate the subcommittee about what's being done.

There were 47 applications that were submitted for the Community Advisory Group. The application let people talk about their beliefs, principles, motivations for participating, and included information on diversity. The Community Advisory Group is something many Safety and Justice Challenge funded cities hoped they would do, but haven't done yet. In this respect, New Orleans is ahead of the curve. Previously, New Orleans had a planning committee composed of non-profits that met to discuss Safety and Justice Challenge strategy. The Community Advisory Group shifts from representatives of non-profits to representatives of the residents who live in the city and have interacted with the criminal justice system. 27 applicants attended the information sessions that were held. There were a lot of great, sophisticated questions, and 90% of applicants who attended reported increased understanding of the scope of the jail population reduction work. Four people sat on the selection committee: Charmel Gaulden, Will Harrell, Ethan Ashley, and Janet Hays. They selected 30 of the applicants to serve in the Community Advisory Group. The first meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 1:30 at Corpus Christi resource center. Meetings will be monthly.

The group hopes to explore progress updates from the OCJC team about what's been happening and to hear from issue experts at various agencies. The group will try to understand what the strategies are and the role of each agency. People who have been selected will serve as a conduit between the community and the Subcommittee. For the first couple meetings, the goal is to do an overview of the Safety and Justice Challenge strategies to understand what they mean. Then they'll move toward an action planning process where the group identifies which strategies are important to them. It's going to take a lot of work. She hopes that they can have a good interaction between the Community Advisory Group and the community as well as between the Community Advisory Group and the Subcommittee. There will ultimately be three seats on the Subcommittee for members of the Community Advisory Group.

Councilmember Guidry asked about the time period the group will be active. Sarah Schirmer clarified that OCJC is able to formally commit for a year, but hopefully the group will continue after the grant period.

Sarah Schirmer expanded on some elements of the Community Advisory Group. She will attend at least part of every meeting. The group may ask members of agencies to come if there's something relevant to discuss. The hope is to have more balance between agencies and the community in Subcommittee meetings. The membership of the Community Advisory Group reflects the makeup of the City. The hope

is the members nominated to serve on the Subcommittee will also be representative of the City. That decision will be made in September. MacArthur has been pushing more and more for community engagement plans since they stimulates conversation and support. New Orleans is one of the standouts with the foundation in terms of this work.

#### **IV. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance Measures**

Sarah Schirmer provided data analysis to summarize jail-related trends. The first four months of this year, the jail population increased. However in the last 2 months, it declined back to where we were at the end of 2016. There has been a slight uptick in felony/misdemeanor pretrial population. The alleged probation and parole violation population is still increasing, but the increase is not as sharp as it was two months ago.

The municipal/traffic pretrial population decreased sharply from the June vs. December snapshot. Sarah Schirmer and Councilmember Guidry discussed the inclusion of state misdemeanors in the December snapshot and the possible impact of the municipal bond ordinance. Members discussed the process for determining performance measures for people booked for failing to pay fines and fees. Overall there was a decline quarter to quarter in those arrests.

40% of defendants eligible to receive ROR, receive ROR. Members discussed possible reasons for the increase in ROR and what a reasonable target objective for RORs would be. Sarah Schirmer estimated that 80% would be a reasonable target. More data on Commissioner Friedman's ROR pilot will be made available next month.

In Quarter two, the percent of defendants released within three days increased 11%. Melody Chang asked a question about the breakdown of financial vs. nonfinancial bonds. Sarah Schirmer clarified that we saw a slight increase to 15% of nonfinancial bonds like ROR last quarter. Staff is not sure what's driving that increase. It may be tied to Pretrial Services. Director Maynard asked a clarifying question about risk levels.

Nia Weeks left at 2:29.

When a defendant is booked on multiple matters it leads to a much longer length of stay. That's one of the issues Virginia Ryan will be looking at as Justice Systems Administrator. Sarah Schirmer noted that although OCJC staff largely set the agenda month to month, members can request an item be placed on the agenda if there's something specific they'd like to discuss.

Councilmember Guidry requested a report on each of the different initiatives.

Chris Bowman left at 2:34.

Commissioner Johnson asked for questions and encouraged the public in particular to share their perspective.

Director Maynard asked about ways the Subcommittee and the Community Advisory Group could work together. Members discussed the ways the Subcommittee and Community Advisory Group could interact, particularly by connecting resources to people leaving the jail.

Councilmember Guidry commented on the low attendance for members. Commissioner Johnson agreed to reengage the absent Subcommittee members.

A member of the public requested an organizational structure for the Community Advisory Group. DuBois Winford directed people to the OCJC website at [nola.gov/ocjc](http://nola.gov/ocjc) where there is a listing of subcommittees and members.

A member of the public commented that it would be great to know what the appearance rate is for RORs and how that compares to people out on bonds.

Jerry Ward asked which agencies have responsibilities for deciding the numbers for risk levels. Sarah Schirmer clarified that most questions determining risk levels are based on prior convictions, failures to appear, and whether there was a violent conviction. The current risk assessment tool also has questions about employment and housing.

Scott Lytell commented that it would be helpful to track after release not only failure to appear but also whether they're booked in jail. He asked who is responsible for administering the assessment. Sarah Schirmer explained that the Criminal District Court operates a Pretrial Services Program that includes a staff of intake specialists within the jail who administer the assessments and conduct the interviews.

Scott Lytell asked who determines which offenses are eligible for ROR. Sarah Schirmer explained that the State sets which charges can receive an ROR. Erness Wright-Irvin requested a one-pager on the topic.

The meeting concluded at 2:51 pm.